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Joy Hall to H A Hall, 12 June 1896

Golden Sq, Bendigo

June 12th 1896

My dear Aubrey

Mama received the P.O.O. & I went promptly to the Square Office and drew the sum named. You were perfectly correct to send the order or rather make it payable at the Golden Square office.

Do not direct our letters Golden Sq via Bendigo, as the train or mail from Melbourne reaches the Golden Sq station before Bendigo.

I hope the little tour you have planned will eventuate, you must certainly take one of the Yandarra partners with you, it would make the trip ever so much more enjoyable, but I fear if you do have such luck you will just be about embarking when we are "Homeward Bound".

Cousin Amy Gibson of Greenstead Sydney sent a photograph of the youthful son & heir of her brother Ted, he is four or five years old, a nice looking little youngster, not a scrap like our branch of the family, I believe the Halls in Sydney differ totally in appearance from us. We have heard some very creepy tales about Aunt Amelia after she lost her balance. Cousin Fanny lived with her about 4 years so she knows a great deal about her, she & Amy Gibson are very cousinly, but I do not think Cousin Fanny has an exalted opinion of our worthy kinsman Edward, it is a long tale I have not heard the whole of yet.

You will both be pleased to hear, that Aunt Sarah's black silk has been made up for the winter, she has quite a stylish outfit, as Cousin Fanny completed the dress, by purchasing a cape, bonnet & black kid gloves. I like Mrs Kemp, so far, she seems a bright disposition, we are all invited to tea up there, one evening next week, to make the acquaintance of the other members of the family. I should prefer to forego the pleasure!

Ma had another letter from Mrs Anderson, she said they were disappointed, that we did not go to see them, but said it was wise not to travel in the winter, as Ma was so delicate; they were all well except Mr Anderson, who has had a visit from his old enemy.

Ma has paid cousin Fanny £10 on account, she is going to reckon up her household expenditure & see what extra expense we are & charge accordingly, she took the money very reluctantly & said if she were better off, she would not make any charge, but as she is not, we are to pay just what it costs to provide for two additional people.

Do you know anything further about Maud? Did cousin Ernest move in the matter of shipping her off to Norway? Her mother was distressed at the condition she found her in, & was asking Ma's advice, she thought of trying to get her a situation somewhere, that might mean Maud coming back to the North West.

We were pleased to hear all the Race new[s], what a meeting of the clan Hall! you must have had a jolly week of it, there appears to have been a little more life than there has been the last few years. You are mistaken in the thought that Mrs Gillam keeps us well informed regarding scandal or any other matter, Ma had one miserable scrawl from her, begging too, Ma also had the pleasure of paying a fine of 4d on it, there is evidently some one else who needs to be instructed in the 'laws of your colony'. Ma says if Snook takes the house, you are to remove the desk & pictures and anything else we value. Mr Goss a student of the Perry Divinity Hall Bendigo has charge of the Golden Sq church; I attend his Confirmation Class every week, which is both interesting & instructive.

As soon as I can get a supplement to the *Leader* I will post it to you, it is on WA entirely, its goldfields & agriculture, the illustrations are beautiful, of course such an insignificant place as the North is ignored.

Please save the Supplement.

Ma sends fondest love

Your loving sister

Joy H M Hall